MEASUREMENTS, TIME RECKONING, DIRECTIONS, AND COLORS

A number of measurements are in use. These have no names. The finger span, from the tip of the thumb to the tip of the middle finger, and the hand length, from the tip of the middle finger along the palm to the wrist, are used in measuring arrow foreshafts, for example. Finger width, that is of the first two fingers, gives the width of a bow. The arm length, from the tip of the middle finger along the inside of the arm to the shoulder joint, gives that of the arrowshaft. The span of the arms, i.e., between the outstretched hands, is used to measure buckskins, the excess being measured in finger spans. The half arm span, from the sternum to the finger tips, is half the length of a bow. Steps are used in measuring houses, etc. Formerly the foot length was not in use. The Hopi use the forearm to measure the length of ears of corn when trading, but the Havasupai make no use of this measurement. 804 [171]

By way of a device for laying out lines, for example, in making a woman's dress, the bow is used: the back furnishes curved lines, the string straight ones. [294]

I have not observed that the fingers or other objects are used in counting. Of course counters are used in certain games, but not because they cannot reckon without them. Beside the numerals given below,[1] fractions (at least a half) are named. 802

1 ɬaľ'tá
2 xuwáǥà
3 hūmúǥà
4 hop'á
5 θθt'ápà
6 tacpθ'
7 xuwaǥacpθ'k
8 humuǥθepθ'k
9 halθθúia
10 viwa"avá
20 wavàhuáǥà or xuáǥàvuwáǥà

[1] See also Harrington, (a), 294.